

# **“RRAFT ADVISORY COMMITTEE”**

## **MEETING # 11 MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2008**  
**6:30 – 9:00 PM**  
**Missoula BLM Field Office**  
**3255 Fort Missoula Road**  
**Missoula**

- **Opening and Agenda**

- *Charlie Sperry ~ FWP Recreation Management Specialist*

- Charlie opened the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda. He quickly reviewed the topics of the previous meeting including fixed and non-fixed allocation.

- **Group Discussion – Fixed and Non-fixed Allocation**

- The group continued their discussion on fixed and non-fixed allocation. The following comments were shared in the discussion.

- While speaking with their trapline, some were concerned that a non-fixed allocation approach could have negative impacts on local economies and businesses.
- If fixed allocation is selected, often times commercial opportunities can be very difficult to take away from commercial users. We should build in flexibility to any system so that it could respond to changes in the demographic of users on the Blackfoot. An example being the built-in review of allocated commercial opportunities to ensure that use proportions are based on actual demand.
- Why shouldn't commercial use be determined on what the market is willing to pay. We should avoid a position that “locks” in opportunities for commercial use.
- The resource is that of the public and a fixed system should not create a property right associated with commercial use. However, we should recognize commercial users' needs for flexibility in offering commercial trips. A fixed system may offer more flexibility.
- Commercial users provide a professional service for the public and are invested in their profession. Commercial users should get something back for this investment.
- It is preferable to create a system that leaves opportunities “open” for future commercial users.
- The Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers provide a flexible alternative to a purely fixed system by offering temporary client days and creating a more “open” system.

- The committee asked FWP staff to provide information on the Beaverhead and Big Hole commercial use rules at the next meeting.

- Dick Fichtler ~ BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner*

- Dick shared the BLM's perspective on allocation. He commented that allocation decisions related to BLM lands would occur during the revision of their Resource Management Plan (RMP). An upcoming revision process is planned for 2010 or 2011. He then added that the BLM could consider the work of the RRAFT committee as a recommendation during the upcoming RMP revision process.

- The committee concluded their discussion on fixed and non-fixed allocation and shifted their focus to the details surrounding allocating private use.

- **Presentation– Allocation Methods for Private Use**

- Chet Crowser ~ FWP River Recreation Manager

- Chet provided an overview of some types of allocation systems in place on other rivers in North America. He then provided handouts comparing the allocation approaches for the Smith River in Montana, the Deschutes River in Oregon and the Arkansas River in Colorado. The committee compared the characteristics of these rivers in relation to the characteristics of the Blackfoot to begin a discussion on what an allocation system might look like for the Blackfoot.

- **Group Discussion – Allocation Methods for Private Use**

- The committee began to discuss allocation methods for private use. The following comments were generated during that discussion.

- A special recreation area could be created for the area between Whitaker Bridge and Johnsrud that would require recreationists to utilize a shuttle service.
    - A private allocation system should allow for a certain level of user spontaneity.
    - An allocation system would not need to be in place year round but we need to be aware of the potential to shift use to different reaches of the Blackfoot and different rivers in the Missoula area.
    - An allocation system would require continual monitoring and multiple thresholds for implementation should be established.
    - How can an allocation system be created that will not shift use to other areas?
    - The system needs to be enforceable.
    - If the system gets too complicated it will be impossible to implement.
    - It is important not to implement highly restrictive management tools before less restrictive management tools.
    - It is important that the committee provide a recommendation for allocating private use.
    - What are some of the problems associated with various allocation systems?
    - What use data and associated cost estimates are available to inform the design of the system?

- **Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM**

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, March 31, 2008  
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
FWP Region 2 Headquarters  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula